



Ontario taxpayer protest group rolls into Windsor

"People really enjoy satire." Canadian Taxpayers Federation visit Windsor with a truck courtesy of the Kathleen Wynne Moving Company.



DOUG SCHMIDT, WINDS

Published on: October 12, 2017 | Last Updated: October 12, 2017 8:47 PM EDT



Christine Van Geyn, Ontario director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, made a stop in Sudbury on Oct. 5, 2017 with the Kathleen Wynne Moving Company truck. The satirical tour stopped in Windsor Oct. 12. JOHN LAPPA / SUDBURY STAR



SHARE



ADJUST



COMMENT

Claiming the provincial government's policies are chasing businesses and jobs out of Ontario, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation drove into Windsor Thursday with a truck advertising the Kathleen Wynne Moving Company.

"People really enjoy satire, and this comes with a sharp message," said CTF Ontario director Christine Van Geyn.

Whether it's making electricity less affordable, implementing new cap-and-trade green taxes, increasing the minimum wage or spending on "corporate welfare" by subsidizing some businesses and not others, Ontario businesses are fleeing the province, said Van Geyn.

Since the brightly coloured moving van first visited Richmond Hill Oct. 3, those on the tour have

been garnering high-fives at Tim Hortons stops as well as hardship testimonials along the way, said Van Geyn.

The tour ends at Queen's Park in Toronto at noon on Monday.

The high price of electricity is one of the biggest concerns being expressed, said Van Geyn, with Ontario businesses openly wooed by jobs-hungry jurisdictions outside the province where the cost of power is much lower.

Accused by the Liberals of being "right-leaning," Van Geyn said her organization is non-partisan and is, in fact, dissatisfied with the hydro files of all the main political parties.

"I'm disappointed by every political leader in the province," she said, adding neither of the three main parties has "clear policy positions" on what to do about Ontario's high hydro rates.

Van Geyn said the province could "simply stop signing" new green energy contracts as a way of saving on hydro costs. She said the government could also stop spending millions of dollars on energy conservation promotion. Ontarians, she said, already have incentive enough to cut back on their power usage because of the high cost of that power.

Emblazoned along the side of the 16-foot moving van is a drawing of the premier and the make-believe moving company's motto: Kathleen Wynne Moving Company — Helping Businesses and Families Leave Ontario." The CTF is urging Ontarians to sign its [online petition at www.wynnesmovingcompany.ca](http://www.wynnesmovingcompany.ca).

With less than a year to go before the next provincial election, the Liberal Caucus Service Bureau already had a party response news release sent out Thursday ahead of a CTF news conference along Windsor's riverfront.

"So here's the truth: business is booming," the Liberals stated, adding that the "right-leaning" Canadian Taxpayers Federation had been caught "distorting the facts (again)."

The Liberals pointed to Windsor's unemployment rate being "the lowest it's been in years," and cited predictions by Canada's five biggest banks that "Ontario will continue to show strong growth this year and beyond." Ontario is third in North America in attracting investment, and the top two, New York and California, are both "in the process of raising their minimum wage to \$15 per hour," the party added.

Van Geyn, whose Windsor appearance attracted a dozen local supporters, said Ontario has lost hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs.



Group brings satirical 'moving truck' to city



By Sabrina Bedford, The Recorder and Times
Thursday, October 5, 2017 5:29:40 EDT PM



Christine Van Geyn, director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation of Ontario, stands on the organization's campaign truck Wednesday morning, parked on Centennial Road at the rear of Procter and Gamble.

Recommend 33

Tweet

G+

SHARE

[Report an error](#)

Parked on Centennial Road with Procter and Gamble behind them, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation was hoping to send a message.

"(We're here) to highlight how government policies are driving businesses and families out of Ontario," said Christine Van Geyn, the taxpayer federation's Ontario director.

"There are real people being impacted by these policies."

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is on a cross-Ontario tour about what they call the Ontario affordability crisis. They created a satirical moving company, dubbed the "Kathleen Wynne Moving Company – Helping Businesses and Families Leave Ontario" is visiting communities to highlight business losses.

The idea, Van Geyn said, is several provincial policies, including "extremely high electricity bills," cap and trade, increases to the cost of labour, and corporate welfare

for big businesses, all combine to make the province a difficult environment for businesses in general.

"All of these factors make it really hard to do business in Ontario, and they're all the things the government is responsible for and make Ontario less competitive and a less affordable place to live and work," she said.

Procter and Gamble, who announced the site's closure in May, said its decision to leave didn't have anything to do with government policy, but that they've been studying its North American supply network for several years and a move to West Virginia will help consolidate the way it goes to market and how closely it sources, manufactures and produces across North America.

The transitions are planned to be complete by early 2020 and will result in the permanent closure of the Brockville site by late 2020 or early 2021, the company said in a statement. The city plant employs close to 600 people.

Van Geyn said that while P&G didn't directly blame government policy for leaving, the favourable conditions set up by a less-restrictive government in West Virginia made the decision easier for the company.

"Everyone who lives in Brockville knows there's not just one reason P&G is leaving, there's a whole lot of reasons," she said.

"But those are all relevant things to consider about why a business might relocate. It also raises the question: if Ontario is not competitive, what's going to come in and provide new jobs when P&G leaves that void?"

The company is hoping to raise awareness about the issue and also encourage people to engage with their politicians. They don't have a political agenda, Van Geyn said, and they don't endorse any political party specifically.

"We're not concerned with who is in office, we're concerned about the policies politicians have," she said.

"The issue is that every political leader is supportive of some kind of carbon tax, and those policies are a big burden on businesses and families."

The reason they started the moving company, she said, is because they've heard from several families who have relocated to other provinces throughout the country that they can't afford to live in Ontario anymore.

They will be on the road spreading their message for two weeks, and plan to go as far north as Sudbury - though they hope to extend their trip and go even further north eventually.

The ultimate goal, she said, is to make Ontario affordable and competitive once again.